

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-24 are pending, with Claims 1, 12 and 23 amended and 2 and 13 canceled by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 1, 5, 9, 12, 16, 20, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cedervall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,671,514, hereinafter Cedervall) in view of Conner (U.S. Patent No. 6,597,681); and Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13-15, 17-19, 21 and 22 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

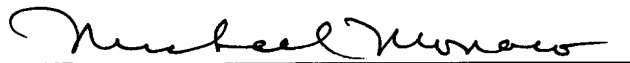
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 and 12 are amended to recite the allowable features of Claims 2 and 13, respectively. Claim 23 is amended to maintain antecedent basis. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, in view of the previous discussion, Applicant submits the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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